



# ZACH KLEIN

## COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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## City Attorney Zach Klein's Property Action Team Secures Order to Board Up Hilltop Drug House

*Court order follows series of community complaints and monthslong CPD investigation into narcotics operation at Ogden Ave*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today announced the Property Action Team secured a court order to shut down a Hilltop area drug house located at 323 S. Ogden Ave. The order follows a monthslong Columbus Police (CPD) investigation that included six undercover drug buys and two raids of the property, which found illegal drugs, paraphernalia and several individuals at the property with active warrants for drug-related crimes. As part of the ruling, CPD executed an order to board up the house.

**“Hilltop residents are fed up with criminals using their neighborhood as an open market for deadly drugs,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“We were able to present this case because of detailed community tips and the investigatory work of CPD. Now, we’ve taken out this drug house and made the area safer for residents, families and businesses. I remain committed to doing everything I can to improve the safety of our neighborhoods, one property and street at a time.”**

According to court documents, CPD received several community complaints this past summer describing the drug dealing operations at the premises, including heavy foot traffic at night and the installation of surveillance cameras used as counterintelligence.

In August, a caller contacted CPD and mentioned that they had attempted to purchase illegal drugs at the premises, but someone at the house stole their property.

In September, CPD’s INTAC Unit began their investigation, surveilling the premises and observing more than a dozen individuals enter and exit the premises over the course of less than 45 minutes. Additionally, CPD worked with individuals to conduct controlled buys of crack cocaine from the premises on three occasions that same month.

In October, police obtained and executed a search warrant of the premises, recovering fentanyl and crack cocaine. Several individuals with active warrants for theft, drugs and prostitution were also found on the premises during the search.

Following the search, detectives sent owners notice of criminal narcotics activity at the property and their duty to abate the nuisance. However, soon after, CPD received additional reports that drugs were still being sold out of the residence.

Police obtained a second search warrant later that month and recovered heroin, firearms and other items related to narcotics sales.

Several weeks later, CPD detectives worked to make another controlled purchase of crack cocaine at the premises, the sixth since the investigation began.

The Property Action Team also noted several code violations in their complaint, including overgrown weeds, trash littering the premises and improper exterior storage. Owners were warned by Code Enforcement officers, but never addressed the violations.

**“The Property Action Team works with neighbors, Code and law enforcement to build cases, bring problem property owners to court, and rid our neighborhoods of drug houses that undermine the quality of life for residents,”** said Property Action Team Attorney Rob Doersam. **“I encourage anyone with tips on nuisance properties to contact CPD or 311 to report it so we can begin to build a case to go after these criminals in your neighborhood.”**